

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Siebert. The Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Toh in view of Seibert. The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heimann in further view of Livesay. The Applicant has amended the claims to recite a ring with a contacting surface that faces an actuator pivot bearing groove and a radial surface that joins the contacting and top surfaces, wherein the radial surface has a radius of curvature that is between 40-85% of the thickness of the ring. This radius prevents contact with a point of an actuator pivot bearing flange during an installation of the ring. None of the cited references disclose these limitations.

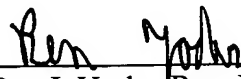
Seibert does not disclose a radial surface between the contacting and top surfaces with a radius of curvature that is between 40-85% of the thickness of the ring. Likewise, Toh, Heimann and Livesay also lack this limitation. None of these references either singularly, or in combination, disclose a radius of curvature that is between 40-85% of the thickness of the ring to avoid contact with a point of an actuator pivot bearing flange during the installation of the ring. These references do not anticipate or render obvious claims 1 and 14 of the above entitled application.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1 and 14 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

IRELL & MANELLA LLP

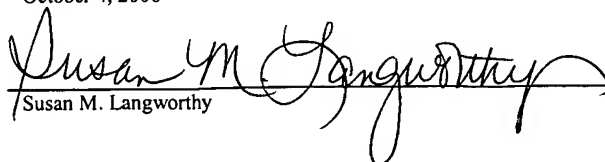
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